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E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/19/06
TAGS: PTEP PGOV MOPS KISL PREL PK AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN ASSERTS "ARABS" HAVE FLED
TRAINING CAMPS; BIN LADEN'S WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

REF: ISLAMABAD 7813

¶1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOM PRICE. REASON: 1.5 (D).

¶2. (C) SUMMARY: THE TALIBAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIR'S ADVISER TOLD POLOFF AND AARMA ON SEPTEMBER 18 THAT THE TALIBAN HAD SEIZED HEKMATYAR/SAYYID MUSLIM. THE TALIBAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIR'S ADVISER TOLD POLOFF AND AARMA ON SEPTEMBER 18, MULLAH ABDUL JALIL, THE TALIBAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIR'S ADVISER, SAID THE TALIBAN HAD SEIZED HEKMATYAR/SAYYID MUSLIM.

¶3. (C) IN A MEETING WITH POLOFF AND AARMA ON SEPTEMBER 18, MULLAH ABDUL JALIL, THE TALIBAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIR'S ADVISER, SAID THE TALIBAN HAD SEIZED HEKMATYAR/SAYYID MUSLIM.

¶4. (C) JALIL CLAIMED THAT ALL OF THE "ARABS" BEING TRAINED IN THESE CAMPS HAVE FLED TO AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE KABUL REGIME. ASKED ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF BIN LADEN, JALIL STATED THAT HE WAS UNKNOWN.

¶5. (C) POLOFF AND AARMA URGED JALIL TO ENSURE THAT THE TALIBAN TAKES MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THESE CAMPS ARE NOT REACTIVATED AND THAT NO FORMATION OF A TALIBAN ARMY OCCURS.

¶6. (C) SEPTEMBER 19 PAKISTANI PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT "AS MANY AS 107 PAKISTANIS WHO WERE RECEIVING MILITARY TRAINING AT TWO CAMPS IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED SINCE SEPTEMBER 11."

¶7. (C) COMMENT: JALIL MADE ALL THE RIGHT SOUNDS CONCERNING TERRORISM, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE COUNTERTERRORISM POINTS HOME IN DISCUSSION WITH SIMONS